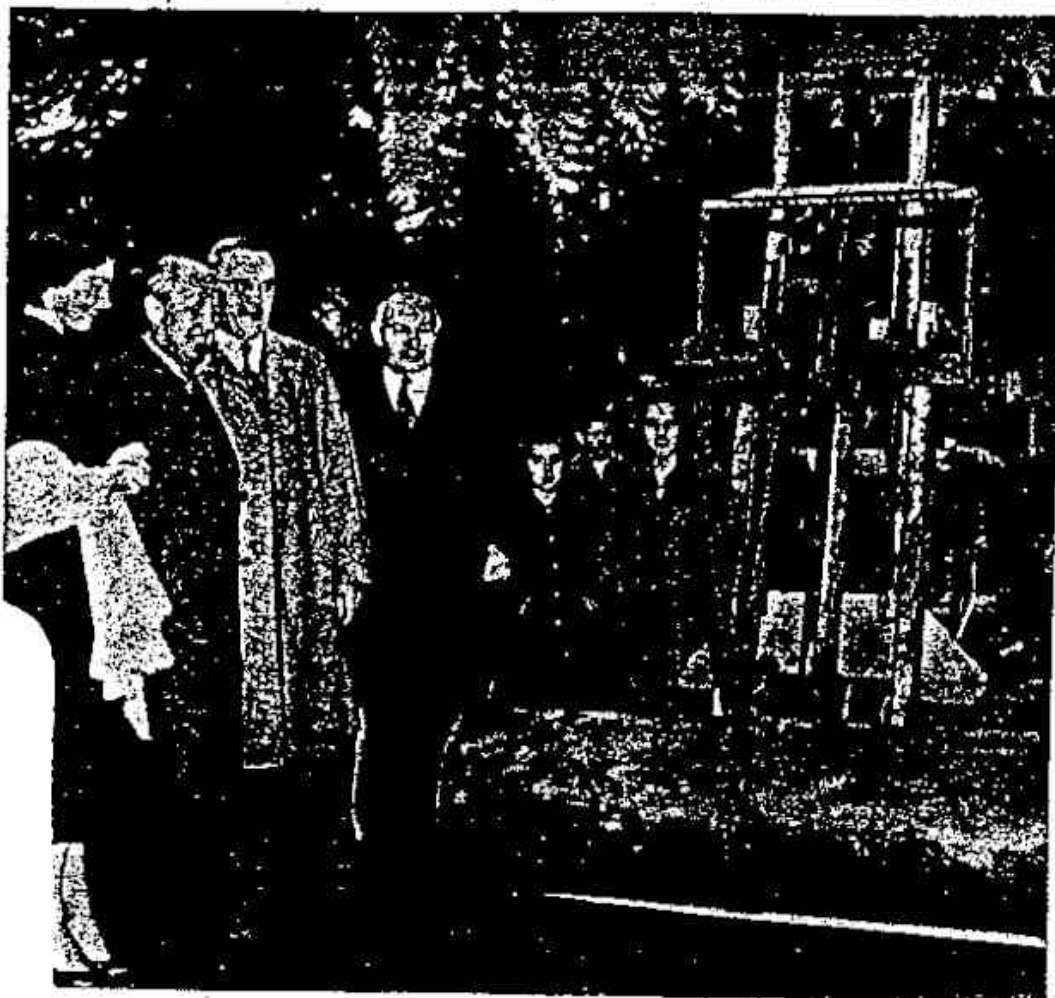


Where Is That Century Plant?



By Dick Lawrence

State leaders are not up on their underground. Or, as students in school across the street from the Campus might say: Capitol Committee members don't dig this time-capsule jazz. They may dig it, however, if they can find it.

The committee, meeting yesterday in the governor's office, received a suggestion that the time capsule's location should be marked. This stirred up many questions. Where? How big? What's it doing wherever it is?

The history class will please come to order. By studying the above Daily Olympian photograph you can determine the shape of

the capsule. The picture was taken November 11, 1953, shortly before the container was placed in an unmarked grave. The ceremony celebrated the centennial of Washington Territory. Pictured (left to right) are Jackie Addins of Port Orchard, centennial queen; Arthur B. Langlie, governor; Chapin D. Foster, director of the State Historical Society, and Matthew Hill, Supreme Court justice and chairman of the centennial advisory committee.

The time capsule is a lead cylinder five feet long and 18 inches in diameter. It weighed 690 pounds when empty. After a history of the territory's first hundred years, a description of the centennial celebration, a forecast of how things would be in 2053, various periodicals including The Daily Olympian, and tape recordings were placed in the capsule. The weight was about 1,000 pounds. Before the container was planted, air in it was replaced with helium.

The capsule's resting place is in the greensward between the Capitol and Temple of Justice. It is about six feet east of the center of the sidewalk, outside the border of flowers. A bronze marker was to be placed in the walk to mark the capsule's resting place. But

Time Capsule Sought Here

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sponsors had bigger ideas. I wanted the container marked by a cairn constructed of stones to Olympia from historic places around the state. The Legislature placed \$7,500 in the budget for the project. Governor Langlie, in his pre-togetherness days, erred the item. Others wanted a sundial placed above the time capsule. Leaders said the Campus was place for a sun dial. (This at a time when the State Library and its sun dial were only dream

Now, after 76 months, we're talking about excavating a time capsule designed to stay underground 100 years. (The idea that Olympians in 2053 were going to have a similar capsule re-to plant.) One plan now is to install the cylinder in the middle of the sidewalk, then install a bronze marker above it.

One of these days, you may see Capitol workmen prospecting for the capsule. Its exact location remains slightly hazy. And as state leader remarked:

"It makes you wonder if many other things are buried around the grounds that we don't know anything about."

It does indeed. But chances nobody will worry about it. Years ago the whole state has been a hole financially but nobody done much about it.